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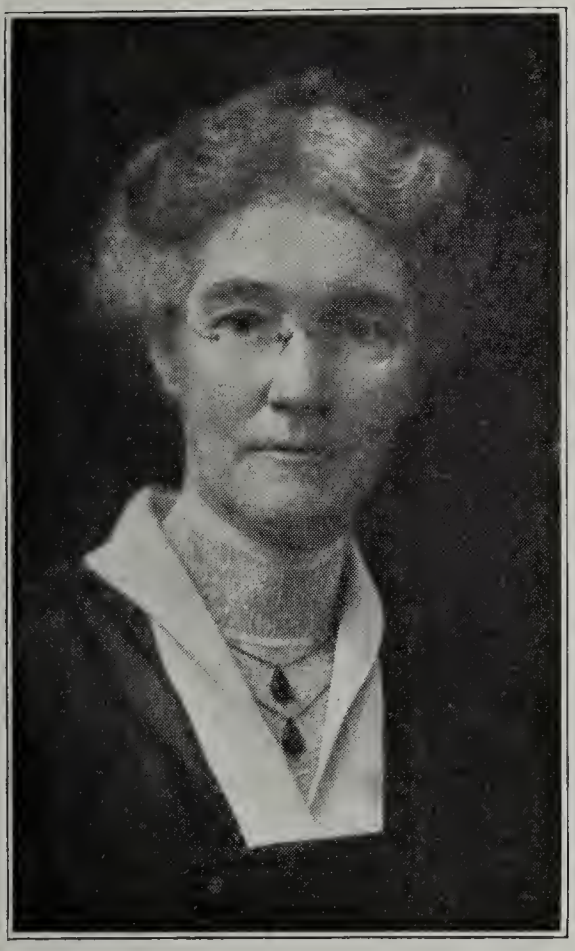
Memorial



Mrs. William M. Baird

There are rare souls, so filled with God's love, so enfolded in it, that to them, nothing, in all the world, is so much worth the while, as the leading of others into the consciousness of that same love. They belong to the King's anointed ones: they have heard His call,—"Help me to save the world!"

One such soul, who gave her life to Him in beautiful, self-forgetting service passed into His presence on June 9th 1916:—

ANNIE ADAMS BAIRD.

In the home-land there are many who will treasure her memory, counting it gain to their own lives to have called her friend. In her home church, she so closely identified herself with its work, in its various forms, that her impact is still felt and acknowledged: pastor and people still praise God that she had belonged to them.

Her record as a missionary began in 1890 when she went to Korea as the wife of Rev. William M. Baird. Each year of this new life, developed and strengthened her desire toward the Kingdom—her faith, her ability, her love, her success, for, added to her marked spiritual gifts, was that of a mind above the average in quality and training. The devoted wife, the tenderest of mothers, the teacher, the

earnest pleader for Christ—the friend and counselor of the Korean women, who almost adored her—was eloquent and persuasive with her pen. This gift also she brought to her Master, and the tongue that is stilled forever, yet speaks for Him. Her "Daybreak in Korea," is a simple, charming illustration of the way Christ and the missionary work together. "Inside views of Mission Life" will long be read by missionaries just beginning their work, for the comfort and encouragement in it.

Her letters home, were glimpses into a great heart. No wonder the Koreans loved her; she gave of her best—to them, and fairly loved them into the Kingdom. Other women, versatile as she, in literary merit, and power to move the hearts of people, might, perhaps feel, that such a life, given as she gave hers, would be wasted: our dear one would say, "work with these Christian women is an endless joy",—and—"I wish I had ten lives to give to Korea."

And very gratefully the Koreans rewarded her work of love for them.

With her loving greeting to our Board on its Silver Anniversary, she wrote; "We have inspirations of our own, too, out here. Think of the privilege of

watching a people emerging from the grave of their trespasses and sins—like Lazarus from his tomb! Wrapped in their grave clothes they are yet, and to us missionaries it is given to help them off with these filthy, festering things, and on with righteousness as with a beautiful garment."

At another time she wrote; "There is a heavy responsibility upon us all, and yet—you don't know how happy it makes us. I know what these words mean; "to mount up on wings as eagles —to run and not be weary."

"Surely," she would say, "a life like mine is all privilege." All privilege!

We cannot truly measure, or place a value upon such a life. There is no rule by which we may compute the amount of good, still in force because of it,—for good dies not. We thank God for this great soul—for the height and depth of her love and trust and courage.

One has said that "missionary service requires the laying along side of it, the life which will be to young and old, an introduction to Jesus Christ." This life our beloved missionary lived; —it was the secret of her wonderful success in winning souls for Christ.

As was said of Mrs. Gifford—who preceded Mrs. Baird in Korea; "Her

memory will be enshrined in the hearts of people, because she was tender and patient and beautiful and loved like the Lord Himself."

Dr. Arthur Brown, of the Assembly's Board of Foreign Missions, wrote: "The life of Mrs. Baird has become an integral part of the establishment of missionary work in Chosen, and the history of the development of the church of God in that land can never be properly written, without grateful mention of the twenty-six years that this consecrated servant of God devoted to its evangelization."

Miss Margaret Best, long associated with Mrs. Baird writes; "From the time of her marriage, to the time of her translation to higher service, she threw all the powers of her rich and versatile personality unreservedly into her chosen work, and accomplished in the twenty-six years of her missionary life, what is given to but few women to accomplish."

Her bereaved husband, referring to her last return to Korea; "It has become true as I told her when she first reached Yokahoma—this act will be regarded as the crowning act of her missionary life, and will do more in stamping the spirit of fidelity and consecration upon the whole Korean

church, and upon other missionaries than it is often given to one missionary to be able to accomplish in a life time. For she was almost dying when she left America, but with a heroism born of love, she bore the pain of the journey, that she might die in Korea and be laid to rest there.

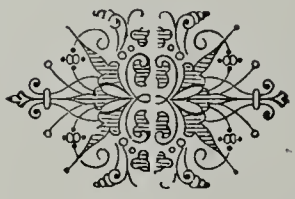
Again; "For much of the time of her sickness, one of her frequent longings was "to go over into the presence of Jesus"—"Quickly Lord!" "I am going to know and to see Him in His beauty. God has been so good to me all my life—now it will be glory forever with Him."

A last word is from the pastor of her church in Topeka, Kansas, Dr. S. S. Estey. The closing words of a service touching and beautiful, and in every way worthy of our dear missionary;

"The old truths of the Bible which she believed were vital enough to save a heathen race, still hold. The good she loved is still beautiful. The Christ she served, still calls servants who, with a passion of loyalty will help Him save the world. The royal pathway she trod is still open to us all, and beyond, the illuminated fields, of being —the boundless horizon—the life more abundant. For us, is still the day, still the warfare. To buckle on the armor

a little more firmly, to steady thought and will a little more resolutely to the strife—this is what her life seems to urge upon us."

Anna L. Hopkins.



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